

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 23, 2009

The Honorable Andrius Kubilius
Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania
Gedimino ave. 11
LT-01103 Vilnius
Lithuania

Dear Prime Minister Kubilius:

As friends of Lithuania in the United States Congress, we are writing you again to raise the issue of property restitution for individuals who had their properties seized or confiscated by the Nazis during the Second World War or by subsequent Soviet governments. While we greatly appreciate your public commitments, and those of past governments, to advance legislation addressing this important issue, we are hopeful that you will follow through on these commitments and move forward with fair and just communal property restitution and/or compensation legislation.

As you know, at the end of this month, your government, along with others in Europe, will have an historic opportunity to commit to resolving the issue of property restitution when the Czech government hosts the 'Prague Conference on Holocaust Era Assets,' a follow-up Conference to the 1998 Washington Conference on Holocaust Era Assets. We believe that the Prague Conference may represent the last and best opportunity to resolve outstanding Holocaust-era issues during the lifetime of Holocaust survivors. Survivors and their heirs are paying close attention to this Conference, and rightfully expect the participating governments to commit to resolving issues that have remained outstanding for over six decades.

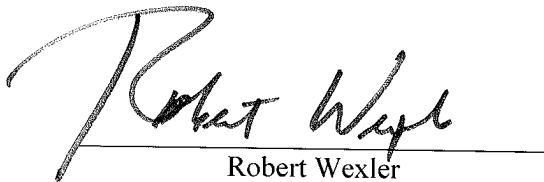
As you may be aware, on September 23, 2008, the U.S. House of Representatives voted unanimously in favor of House Concurrent Resolution 371, a resolution strongly supporting an immediate and just restitution or compensation of property illegally confiscated during the last century by Nazi and Soviet regimes. Specifically, the resolution called on the government of Lithuania to immediately enact fair, comprehensive, and just communal property legislation so that groups, organizations, or communities are able to obtain either restitution or compensation of their property, and ensure that such legislation establishes a non-bureaucratic, simple, transparent, and timely process, so that it results in a real benefit to the many people who suffered from the unjust confiscation of their property.

It is our understanding that during the Prague Conference, the international community will formulate principles to guide future property restitution/compensation efforts. The Conference is an opportunity for your government to publicly announce a plan to introduce, pass, and implement equitable and fair property restitution legislation which will provide victims of Nazi and Soviet persecution with at least a small measure of justice during their lifetimes. To that end, we respectfully request that you and your government provide a detailed plan at the Prague Conference for resolving this issue, a date when you expect legislation to be introduced and passed by the Lithuanian Parliament, and information about how your government plans to implement this law, once enacted. Given the importance of this issue, it is our hope that the legislative and implementation process will begin immediately and be completed by the end of the calendar year. Providing this plan at the Prague Conference would be welcome by claimants and members of Congress, considering that past commitments to resolve this issue have not been met.

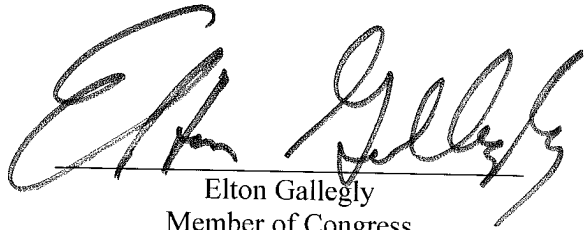
Prime Minister Kubilius, as you know, an overwhelming majority of European governments have already signed into law property restitution/compensation legislation. In doing so, they sought to rectify historic injustices that impacted millions of individuals across Europe in the last century. The Prague Conference is the right venue for your government to follow the example of your neighbors and take bold steps toward enacting and implementing comprehensive property restitution legislation.

Over the past two decades, U.S.-Lithuanian relations have grown stronger, and the U.S. Congress has expressed its strong support for this partnership. We greatly value this special friendship which will continue to grow, and look forward to working with you and your government at the Prague Conference to address the property restitution/compensation issue which is of critical importance to many of our constituents across the United States.

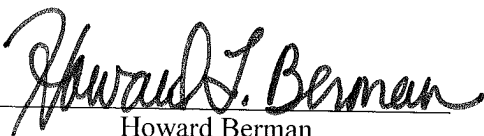
Sincerely,

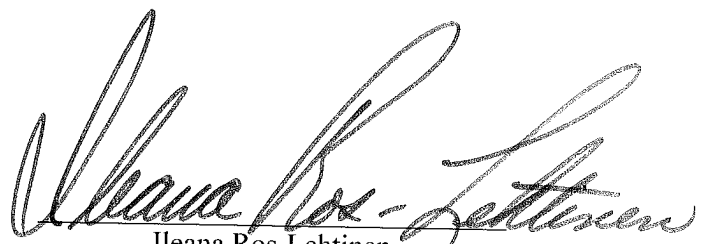


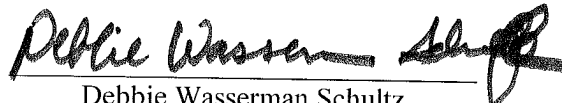
Robert Wexler
Member of Congress
Chairman, House Subcommittee on Europe




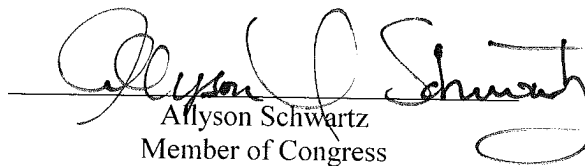
Elton Gallegly
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on Europe

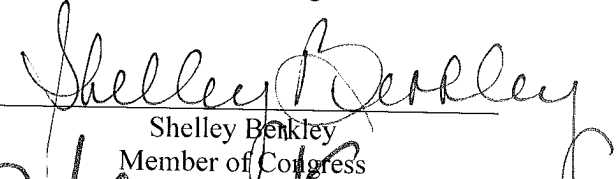

Howard Berman
Member of Congress
Chairman, House Committee on Foreign
Affairs


Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, House Committee on
Foreign Affairs

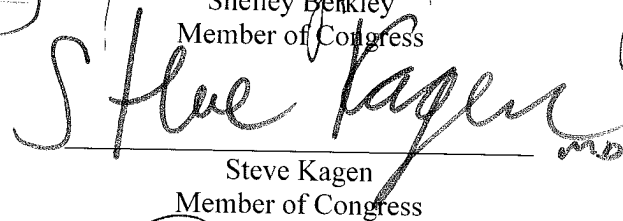

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

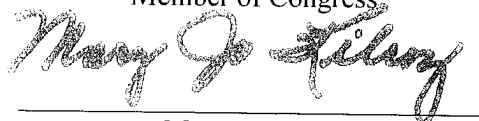

Ron Klein
Member of Congress

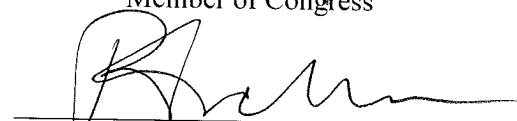

Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress

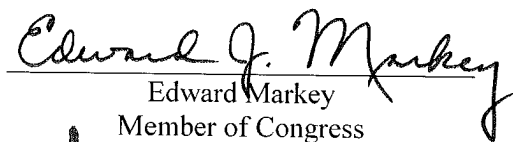

Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress

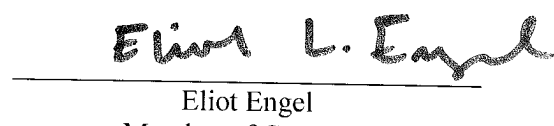

Rush Holt
Member of Congress

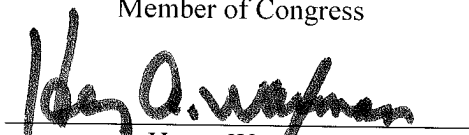

Steve Kagen
Member of Congress

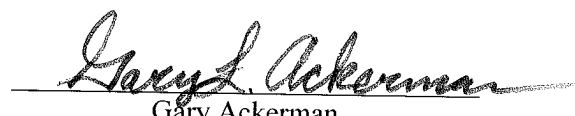

Mary Jo Kilroy
Member of Congress



Paul Hodes
Member of Congress

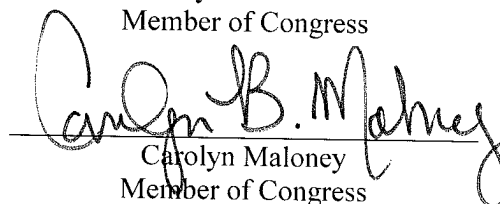

Edward Markey
Member of Congress

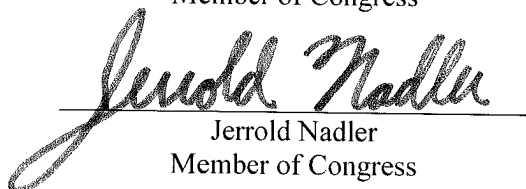

Eliot Engel
Member of Congress

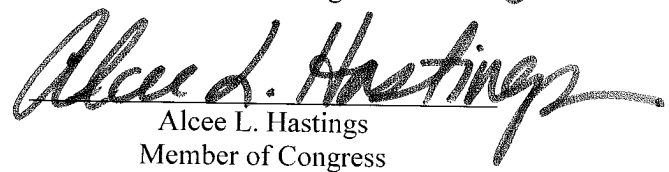

Henry Waxman
Member of Congress

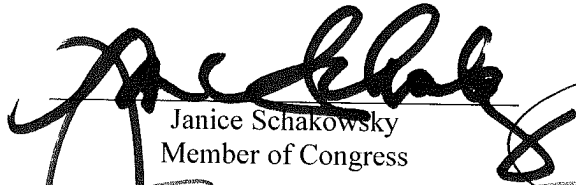

Gary Ackerman
Member of Congress


Steven Rothman
Member of Congress

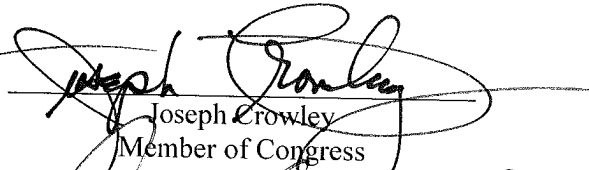

Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress


Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



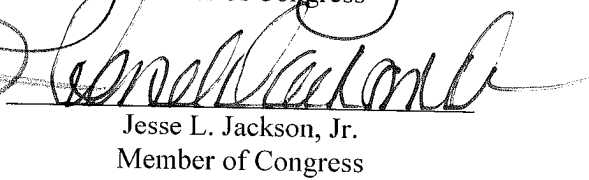
Janice Schakowsky
Member of Congress



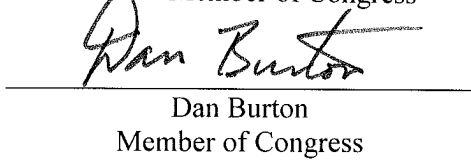
Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



Steve Israel
Member of Congress



Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Dan Burton
Member of Congress

Cc:

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

Ambassador J. Christian Kennedy, U.S. Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues

Ambassador Audrius Bruzga